in other bilateral fora. India should respond by reiterating the line taken in the JRC, i.e. ILR is a concept, not a single project.

Selection of Independent Directors

*225. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Independent Directors existing at present, PSE-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that such positions have remained vacant for years, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that absence of required number of Independent Directors on the Boards have precluded the PSEs from exercising the autonomy offered to them under the policy;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there have been cases when the Independent Directors have been reappointed for another term, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to streamline the procedure to ensure timely selection of Independent Directors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per available information, the details of vacancies of Independent Directors in various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises are given in the Statement (*See* below). The updated position of vacancies in CPSEs under other Administrative Ministries is being collected.

(b) The requisite number of Independent Directors are not in position in some CPSEs for quite some time. The reasons for this include delay in receiving reference from the administrative Ministries/Departments, time taken to process the proposals and delay in obtaining the approval of the competent authority by the administrative Ministries/Departments on the recommendations made by the Search Committee/Public Enterprises Selection Board, etc.

(c) In respect of a few CPSEs with less than the requisite number of Independent Directors, their Boards were unable to exercise the delegated powers.

(d) There have been some instances where the existing Independent Directors have been re-appointed for another term. In terms of the extant Guidelines, the existing Independent Directors may be appointed again, provided they continue to fulfill the laid down eligibility criteria regarding age, etc. and their name is proposed by the concerned Administrative Ministries and is recommended by the Search Committee/Public Enterprises Selection Board.

(e) The Administrative Ministries/Departments have been advised from time to time to appoint the requisite number of non-official Directors on the Board of CPSEs under their administrative control. The Administrative Ministries/Departments have been further advised to submit the proposals for selection of non-official Directors at least six months in advance of the date of occurrence of the vacancies.

Statement

Details regarding vacancies of Independent Directors in various Central Public Sector Enterprises

There are in all 13 CPSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry where positions of independent Directors are presently being filled. Out of 13 CPSEs, there is no vacancy in 6 CPSEs. Vacancy position in respect of remaining CPSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry is as under:

Sl. No.	CPSE	No. of vacancies of Independent Directors
1.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL)	1
2.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)	1
3.	HMT (Holding) Co. Ltd.	3
4.	Scooters India Ltd. (SIL)	3
5.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessles Ltd. (BHPV)	2
6.	Hindustan Paper Corp. Ltd. (HPC)	1
7.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. (HNL)	1
	TOTAL	12

In other 21 operational CPSEs in the Department, due to sickness and poor financial conditions, board level vacancies are not being filled. However, as and when such Company's revival plans are approved, positions of Independent Directors are proposed to be filled up on a case-to-case basis.

Recovery of dues from private airlines

*226. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the private airlines owe huge sum of money to Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether interest is being charged for the period of default;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to realise the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of outstanding dues from various private airlines as on 31.3.2006 are as follows (in lakhs of Rupees):—

Air Deccan-2609.21, Air Sahara-1013.97, Blue Dart Aviation-64.96, Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd.-146.83, Cosmic Air Pvt. Ltd.-26.35, East West Airlines-1183.46, East West Travels & Trade Links Pvt. Ltd.-310.85, Elbee Airlines Ltd.-83.88, Go Air-119.20, Jet Airways-2363.24, Kingfisher Airlines-1328.90, Mesco Airlines-46.30, NEPC Airlines-308.25, Paramount-18.46, Skyline NEPC Airlines-150.49, Span Air-37.46, Spice Jet-234.43, U.P. Airways-33.38, VIF Airways-17.98, Others-438.24, Total-10535.84

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Interest charged for the period of default from private airlines on delay in payment of bills/settlement (in lakhs of Rupees) is as follows:

Air Deccan-145.36, Kingfisher Airlines-18.72, Jet Airways-13.88, Sahara Airlines-1.87, Spice Jet-0.32, Paramount Airways-0.17, Go Air-0.10.

(e) Dues are monitored regularly by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and action through legal/arbitration/Public Premises Eviction (PPE) Act is taken wherever necessary. Besides, interest is levied for overdue